



# THE HIBISCUS LEAFLET

*Coral Gables Garden Club, Coral Gables, Florida ~ Celebrating our 96th Year*

*A proud member of the National Garden Club, Inc. and the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs*

*May 2021*

## *Garden Club enters 97th year with energy & gusto*

Three wonderful events have happened since our last Newsletter!

First, our photography competition kicked off on April 15<sup>th</sup> and continues through May 31<sup>st</sup> until 10:00pm. We are receiving fabulous photos from all over the state and wonderful images of Coral Gables.

I hope you will consider submitting some images soon, as I would not want you to miss out on an opportunity to have your images published or win a cash award. There are seven categories, which are: Macro, Pollinators and Plants, Everything Coral Gables, On the Wild Side (nature and wildlife),

Pandemic Views, Florida's Historical Places (many are in Coral Gables) and A Matter of Light (a black and white category). If you would like to participate but don't

want to submit photos, you can always donate on our website. The link is on the photo contest page at [www.coralgablesgardenclub.org/photocontest](http://www.coralgablesgardenclub.org/photocontest). Follow us on Instagram #asiseeitphotocontest and our Coral Gables Garden Club Facebook page, where winners will be announced.

The second event was our amazing installation celebration orchestrated by Betsy Tilghman and her wonderful committee. Thanks so much to Betsy, Evelyn Budde, Julie Connor and her daughter Etain Connor, Suzuyo Fox,

Sherry Jordan, Judy Mangasarian, Sandy Milledge, Sharon Trbovich, Kitty Winkler, Beth Werner, Denise West, and Teresa Zohn! These ladies created a fun-filled Zoom installation that was filled with laughter and made everyone feel special. Congratulations to the committee and to our new board members, and a big welcome to new Provisional members Daria Feinstein, Peggy Groves, Lynn Kerdyk, Marci Montgomery and Jodi Zaban. We hope that each of you enjoy our club and find opportunities to actively participate in its many areas of service.

~ Continued on page 2



*All three photos on this page are samples of photos to publicize our As.I.See.It Photo Contest.*



Lastly, the Coral Gables Garden Club was recently honored at the Merrick House for the work our members have done there over the years. Special thanks are due to Ana Lam for inviting the garden club to participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the library dedicated to Arva Moore Parks.

We have much to look forward to in the coming months before a new club year begins. The annual Tour of Kitchens was postponed this year and will now take place June 12<sup>th</sup>. We will participate and have a wonderful group of volunteers already signed up to help with this fun event. Thank you, Sharon Trbovich, for organizing our efforts!

Our garden center is being packed up and sent to storage due to planned interior renovation.



Hopefully, that project will begin this summer. Many thanks to Chip Withers of Withers Transportation Systems for offering to take our things to his shipping and storage company while the garden center is under construction.

In other news, a team of volunteers is taking photos of all of our 20<sup>th</sup> century scrapbooks, so we can digitize and share this historical information on our website. It's great fun to read the old articles dating back to 1925, and to see the development of the garden club's organization as our city grew and matured. Tri-club Christmas parties, installation picnics at Matheson Hammock, supper events at Fairchild and the trends in gardening projects during the 20<sup>th</sup> century all make for interesting reading. If you would like to help with this project, please contact me at [susan56athome@gmail.com](mailto:susan56athome@gmail.com).

A restful summertime is on the horizon, so pack your bags get those beach reads ready to go. I hope each of you can do exactly as you please this summer, whether that means traveling, visits with family, lounging by the water, social gatherings or all of the above. If you'd like to take photos and share them with us for our September leaflet and members-only website links, we would welcome them.

Hopefully, we can put the Zoom meetings behind us and begin to gather in person this coming September. We would love to welcome you back after your summer break with a celebratory first meeting, so stay tuned and see you in September!



*Photos of the Merrick event by Jeannett Slesnick. The 1919 sewing machine which belonged to Jeannett's mother was recently donated to the Merrick House.*

~ Susan Rodriguez, President



## Following CDC Rules: A different kind of Happy...

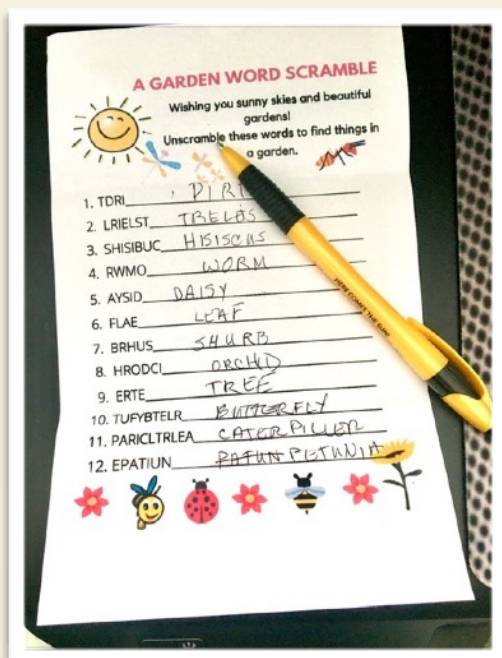


Thank you, Betsy Tilghman, Evelyn Budde, Julie Connor and her daughter Etain Connor, Suzuyo Fox, Sherry Jordan, Judy Mangasarian, Sandy Milledge, Sharon Trbovich, Kitty Winkler, Beth Werner, Denise West, and Teresa Zohn!





## CGGC May Meeting...it really does take a village



Betsy Tilghman and her team of creative party planners outdid themselves to plan a fun, CDC approved, May Installation Meeting. With the "Here Comes The Sun" theme, each member received a gift bag of goodies to be part of a fun Zoom meeting. Their weeks of hard work paid off as the Zoom meeting went off without a hitch. Everyone appreciated the happy day.

The unique and very creative Installation performed by Sherry Jordan was the hit of the meeting. Everyone agreed that this meeting was fun, interactive and showed what Club members can do when they work together. Congratulations everyone!







## Welcome to our 2021-2022 CGGC new members

### Daria Feinstein

I am an avid conservationist, bird lover, grandmother of six, gardener, and a former health care educator and administrator. I have been a Coral Gables resident since 1971 when we relocated here for my late husband's dermatology career as clinical faculty at the University of Miami and private practice at Mercy Hospital. I completed my Masters in the first graduating Master of Science class at Florida International University. It is difficult for me to put my interests in any order since retiring because I believe in Maslow's self-actualization. Fulfilling your potential as a person includes education, skill development and caring for others and your community. I think the Garden Club offers these opportunities and complements my position as board member (15years) of the Bird Lovers club, Tropical Audubon member, American Federation of Aviculture, and Canefunder.



### Peggy Groves

I have lived in Coral Gables for over 40 years. After graduating from Stetson University with a BS in biology I worked in immunological research. I have also earned a BA in interior design which allows me to incorporate my knowledge of science with the art of design. I am fascinated with our perception of color and how it affects moods and interpretation of a space.

I am lost without a new project, whether it is planting an herb tower garden, learning a new computer program or designing a needlepoint project. I am an experienced community volunteer. I have been a member of Junior League, Beaux Arts, Opera Guild, Dade Heritage Trust, Red Cross and American Women's Club. I have chaired projects ranging from auctions, balls and art parks. I have been honored to have served in numerous board positions.

My husband, Graham, and I have three children and ten grandchildren. I love being the grandmother that leads adventure walks, builds gingerbread houses and doesn't mind if the kitchen is a mess because learning to cook is a hands-on

experience.

My hobbies include gardening, cooking, needle craft and reading.

### Lynn Kerdyk

I grew up in a home on Old Cutler Road just outside of the Coral Gables city limits. Both of my parents grew up in Coral Gables and I loved to hear the stories of what it was like back in the beginning when Coral Gables and the surrounding areas were developing. A funny family story is that my mother actually introduced my mother-in-law, Marlene Kerdyk, and father-in-law, Bill Kerdyk, to each other. Thirty years later I married their son!

I graduated from Coral Gables High School, attended college in Texas and then went to graduate school at the University of Miami. I have a Ph.D. in clinical psychology and was on the faculty at UM in the Department of Pediatrics from 1986 until 2020.

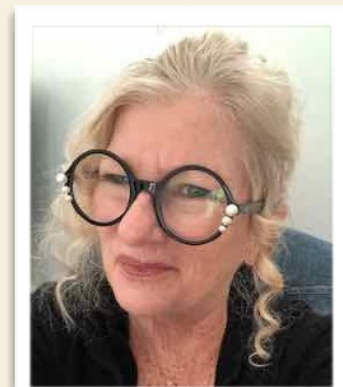
Bill and I have three children. The two older ones, William, III "Trae" and Lindsay, live in Miami and work with my husband in his real estate firm. Our youngest child, Leigh, is in graduate school at Tulane University. I enjoy being outside and surrounded by nature. I often spend time in North Carolina during the summer and fall. Our latest project in the mountains was planting some fruit trees, berries and a pumpkin patch.

My late mother-in-law, Marlene Kerdyk, was a member of the Coral Gables Garden Club for many years. She loved the organization and always spoke highly of the members and the projects that were undertaken. I am looking forward to participating in the club that she enjoyed so much.



## Marci Montgomery

Marci Montgomery is a retired brand strategist and content developer who has worked for several major companies, including Verizon, GE and PricewaterhouseCoopers. She graduated in 1985 from the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida, with a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communications. After working as a journalist, she moved into PR and subsequently into corporate brand communications. Marci relocated to Coral Gables in 2013 from the San Francisco Bay Area. Her hobbies include show dogs, dog grooming competitions, and attempting to grow orchids. She is excited to be a part of the Coral Gables Garden Club and looks forward to working on beautification projects for the city she now calls home.



## Jodi Zaban

Jodi Zaban is a newer Coral Gables resident, hailing from the Northern suburbs of Chicago. She is a certified teacher in both Illinois and Florida, and taught for 25 years in Chicago area schools (first and second grades) before moving to Coral Gables with her husband, Dr. Al Mameniskis in 2019. Jodi's interest in the Garden Club stems from childhood visits to the Chicago Botanical Gardens and her later volunteer work with the "Random Acts of Flowers" charitable organization, which repurposes leftover flowers in order to create arrangements for lonely hospital patients and the healthcare workers who tend them. Jodi counts among her skills the ability to connect deeply with children as well as the elderly and individuals with special needs. The Garden Club projects that most interest her are the Lamar Louise Curry Park, the Merrick House Heritage Garden, and Garden Therapy, in part because of her teaching background and also because she believes hands-on work is the best way to learn.



## *The joys of living in South Florida during the month of June*

The temperature is heating up. The rains will soon arrive. And the Poinciana trees are intricate leafless, spreading sculptures against the blue sky. The trees are preparing to give us the most stunning display of color in our subtropical landscape. Each of us probably has our favorite Poinciana and we drive by it in anticipation. By the end of this month we will once again be awestruck by the brilliant orange canopy around us.

The Royal Poinciana, or Flamboyant, is a native of Madagascar. Its flower colors range from solid red to orange to yellow. On some trees the solid petals are mixed with white petals. I've read that it

is thought that the white petals may serve as a "nectar guide" for pollinators, as they open at about the same time as the pollen ripens.



By mid to late summer the flowers will have slowly dropped and the trees will become a dense canopy of finely laced green leaves, giving us respite from the blazing sun.

Have a wonderful summer, ladies! Enjoy the brilliant display of our Poincianas and the hot, steamy wonders of our wet season.

~ By Betsy Tilghman - Reprinted from the May 2014 Hibiscus



## Club Happenings: Making progress with lots of laughter



~ Members and friends are now gearing up for our back to normal gatherings. Susan Rodriguez, along with Kitty Winkler, Donna Box, and Nita Norman are working on a project to photograph all the scrapbook in the workroom. A dauntless task. If you wish to volunteer, please email Susan Rodriguez.

~ **For Earth Day**, Past President, Judy Mangasarian was able to attend the Earth Day celebrations at the Gifford Arboretum. With Dr. Mauro Galetti-Rodrigues, they successfully hung an orchid. Dr. Galetti-Rodrigues was the speaker at the April 2021 meeting. His lecture was titled "A Scientist in the Garden." The club hopes to collaborate with the Gifford more closely in the future.

~ Congratulations to **Connie Cabeza** on the birth of her granddaughter, adorable little Cali Rose.

~ **Members, we need your help this summer!**

Please distribute the 'CGGC Yearbook Ad Form' to your favorite businesses so they can purchase an ad in our Coral Gables Garden Club 2021/22 Yearbook. Consider buying a tribute for someone special or advertise your business! Orders are due August 1, 2021. More information and Ad forms to arrive by email!

### SUPPORT YOUR CGGC!

Consider placing a full color Ad in our Yearbook

- 1-page AD in Yearbook inside back cover \$300 (limited to first request)
- 1-page AD in Yearbook (5" X 8"h) \$250
- 1/2-page AD in Yearbook (5" X 4"h) \$125
- 1/3-page AD in Yearbook (5" X 2.5" h) \$75
- 1/4- page or business card AD in Yearbook ~ Size: (3 1/2" X 2"h) \$50 (limited to first 4 requests)



~ **Community Affairs Report:** Have you seen an unusual multi-colored police car driving around and wondered if this is the new color for our police patrol cars? No, it is not. Coral Gables partnered with Crystal Academy in designing an educational message for Autism. Officer Andrew George, who has a brother who is autistic, will be driving this special vehicle.

~ Dorothy Thomson, Community Affairs Chairman

~ Sharon Trbovich made a trip down to Swankridge to deliver our May gift bags to Mary Whitcomb, Elizabeth Watson and Eleanor Zahner. Only Mary was ready for her "prime-time" photo.

